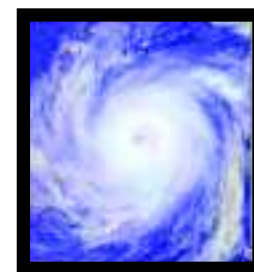




# Market Bulletin

Bob Odom, Commissioner

It's hurricane season.



Is your family prepared?

VOL. 89, No. 14

[www.ldaf.state.la.us](http://www.ldaf.state.la.us)

July 6, 2006

## SAVVY

*skilled in the system*

By Sam Irwin

Horse trainer Don Knapp is a polite fellow.

When he is in the show arena or corral teaching advanced beginner horse trainers, he asks, "May I use your horse to demonstrate?" He says please and thanks to the pupil.

When a photographer asks for permission to take shots of him and the animals at work, he says, "Sure, and thanks for asking."

He even tells the horses he's training thank you, provided they perform the desired action.

At six-foot-four and weighing in at around 240 pounds, Knapp doesn't necessarily have to be well-mannered, but in the business of horse training, he knows you catch more horseflies with honey than vinegar.

Knapp teaches an equine training method that has come to be called natural horsemanship. Natural horsemanship is predicated on the belief and understanding that horses were given the gift of running fast to escape danger.

"It's a way of teaching horses from the horse's point of view," Knapp said after a June morning teaching session at Kleinpeter Veterinarian Clinic Arena in Prairieville.

"Horses are prey animals," Knapp told his six pupils. "We are the predators. We have to show them we aren't predators."

This simple revelation did not come easily to Knapp when he began fooling with horses as a young boy growing up in Alberta, Canada.

"Force, fear and intimidation has usually always been pretty much the norm in horse training," Knapp said. "People never thought of love."

He paused as though bewildered.

"Love a horse? People never thought of establish-

ing some sort of language with a horse," Knapp said. "They thought of a horse as a stupid animal, so they just kind of beat it into submission or spurred the horse."

Knapp said he saw plenty of force used in horse training as a kid on his family ranch in Alberta.

"I saw lots of it (harsh treatment to horses) as a kid growing up, but I could never do it," Knapp said. "It just wasn't in me. I could not abuse a horse like that."

He said his upbringing was like that of any ranch kid growing up in the West. It involved horses, cattle and, of course, the rodeo.

"I did the normal thing that most cowboys or kids that grew up on a ranch do," Knapp reminisced. "I rodeoed in my late teens and 20s."

But the rugged life of a rodeo cowboy can get anyone out of sorts and Knapp abandoned horses for seven years. He had jobs in real estate, construction and the oil field before returning to

the equine world.

"I decided after seven years that my life wasn't full," Knapp said. "It wasn't fulfilled. There was something missing and it was the horse."

He became a farrier, all the while carrying a passion to train horses.

"I've had this calling all of my life," Knapp said. "I was 40-something-years-old when I really realized that I was here for a purpose."

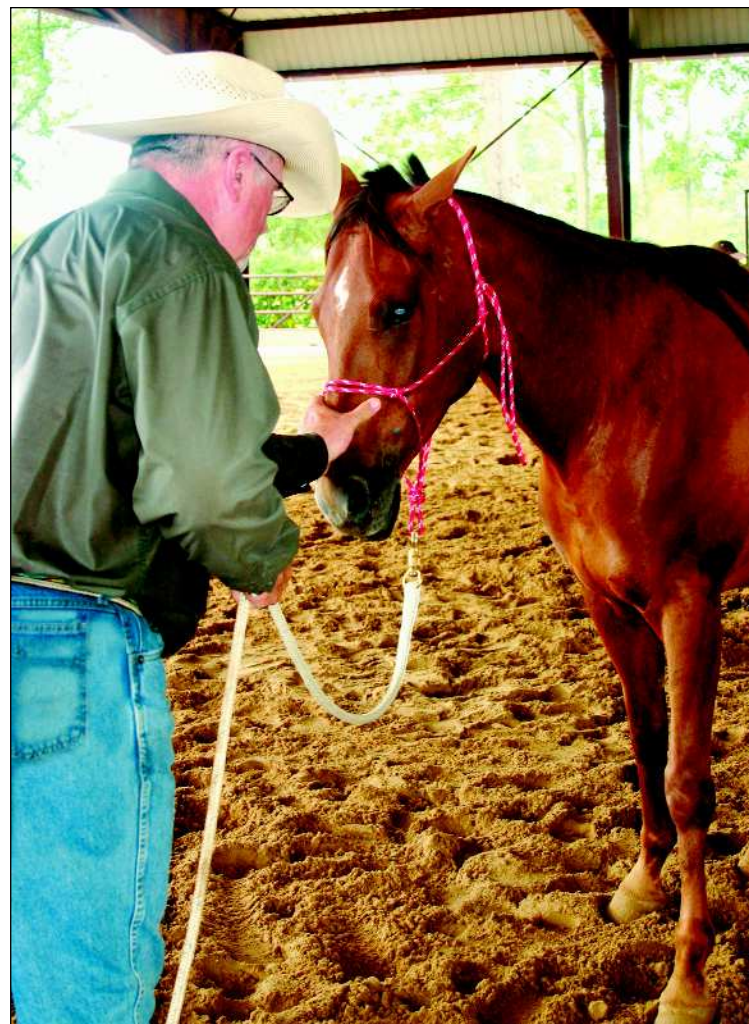
Knapp took the old Chinese proverb, "One must be a student before one can be a teacher," quite seriously.

"When I found out what my purpose in life was, I had to search for the information I needed to be able to teach people how to train their horses," Knapp

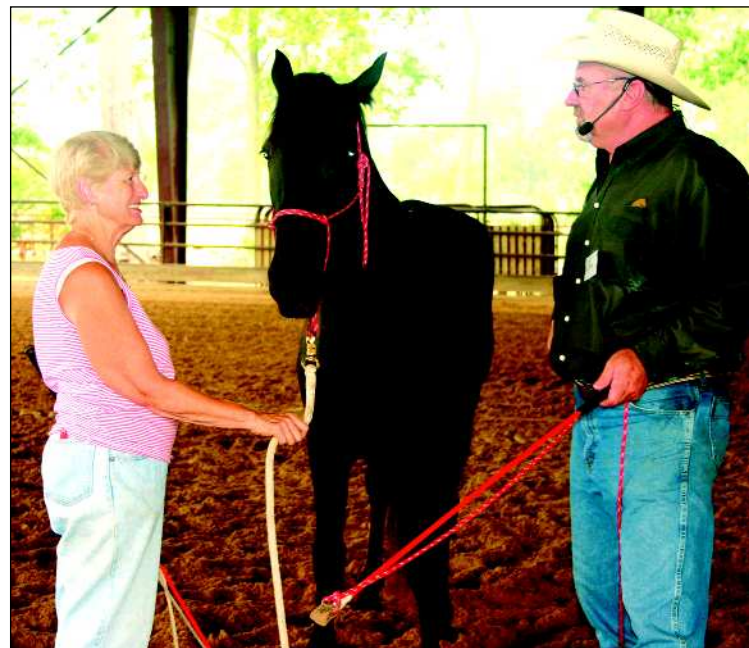
*See Natural horsemanship, page 2*



Don Knapp

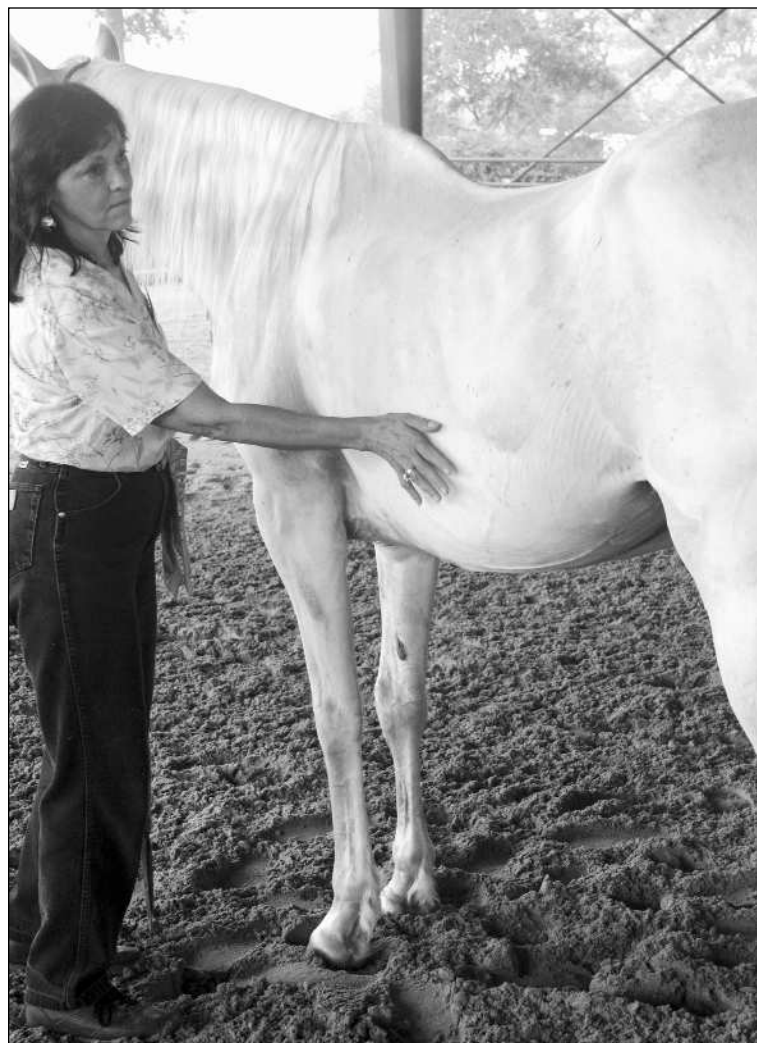


Knapp plays the driving game (above) with a horse at a recent clinic in Prairieville. The game teaches the horse to respond and move to implied pressure. Being able to touch the horse anywhere on its body, including the tongue (left), is trust building and part of the friendly game. Knapp also worked individually with class participants during the clinic (below).





# Natural horsemanship, *continued from page 1*



Gayle Foster of Loranger used the methods described in Pat Parelli's book "Natural Horsemanship" to train Sugar (above), a 10-year-old mare that had never been ridden. Don Knapp, a three-star instructor of the Parelli Savvy System termed Foster's work with the mare as "magnificent" (bottom right). Knapp gave an instructional clinic in Prairieville last month.

related. "I recognized that most horse training problems were not the horse's fault. It was us. So I had to search out some kind of a program that taught me how to teach people."

What Knapp found was Pat Parelli's book, "Natural Horsemanship."

The discovery of Parelli's theories was so compelling to Knapp he can still remember when he first encountered them.

"I read an article in 1989 in Equus magazine. I think it was October-November issue," Knapp said. "It was on Pat Parelli and the natural horsemanship movement. It was something that just resonated with me. I felt attuned to it."

But Knapp said he spent a few more years "fumbling around" until he attempted to apply the Parelli methods to his farrier work.

"In 1993, when I read his book, it was amazing to me the change I made in horses just from reading the book," Knapp said. "Now I know, but back then? I didn't know anything, but what that book taught me was a little thing like back a horse up, move his

hindquarters and ask him to stand still, or go sideways — just getting him to move his feet and asking him to stand still was very beneficial.

"I'd go in there and pick up his feet and shoe a horse or trim him with no muss, no fuss. It proved to me I was on the right track."

Knapp credited Parelli with spreading the gospel of natural horsemanship, but also credited earlier practitioners of the art like Tom and Bill Dorrance and Ray Hunt for giving the knowledge to people like Parelli.

"In the old days most of what we know about natural horsemanship was handed down from one person to the next — father to son — a good friend to a good friend," Knapp explained. "You had to know somebody. Pat Parelli has brought that knowledge to the forefront. He's put it in a form that's very teachable so somebody like me can understand and give it to the people that really need to know."

Parelli's form, known as the Savvy System, is based on the ancient games wild plains ponies play within the herd to establish a leader alpha horse.

Knapp said there are three principle games, the friendly, porcine and driving games. By perfecting the principle games with the four additional purpose games (the yo-yo, circling, sideways and squeeze) a trainer can gain the horse's complete trust and establish himself as the herd leader.

Knapp recalled his first experiences with the games.

"I picked up the seven games and I'd wiggle the rope at them a little bit and I'd drive their hindquarter and get them to go sideways and I'd get them to stand still and, darn it, they'd stand still for me," he marveled. "It was like magic to me."

After several years of practicing the art, Knapp is now a certified three-star instructor in the Savvy System. It means he can teach up to 10 students at the beginner and intermediate levels at one time.

His pupils at the Kleinpeter arena were all women.

"What I want these folks to do is get their games good enough on the ground so they can apply these same principles when they're on horseback," he said.

Mary Gaidry, 36, of Houma has been around horses all her life.

"I break and train all of my horses," Gaidry said. But Lover, her "little old mare," was giving her problems.

"I'm more of a traditional trainer in the style we all grew up with," Gaidry said. "Here, I'm learning different ways to get results."

She laughed, "I hope I'm learning new ways. I don't know if it's possible — I'm kind of crazy like a horse."

But Gayle Foster, a grandmother from Loranger, was convinced.

"When we moved to the country from Metairie and bought three horses, I didn't know anything about horses," Foster said. "I was 40 years old and I didn't ride, didn't check their feet, nothing."

Fortunately for Foster, the first horses she bought were well trained and the animals taught her how to ride.

Unchallenged by her horse, she bought Sugar, a ten-year-old mare that had never been ridden.

"If Sugar had been my first horse I wouldn't be riding today," Foster said. "She exploded on me all the time, rearing and bucking. I had a professional trainer tell me he wouldn't get on my horse for a million dollars."

But Foster kept working with Sugar and worked with the Southern Savvy Club, a group of horse owners who used Parelli's Savvy System. She also took a level one Parelli clinic.

The hard work has paid off. In the Kleinpeter arena, Sugar followed Foster's cues with ease, fluidity and attention. Knapp termed her work with the horse as "magnificent."

"The Pat Parelli training has just changed this horse completely," Foster said. "This was a horse you couldn't trailer. You couldn't touch her. She would start shaking if you brushed her."

"I never dreamed I could ride my grandchildren on her, but now I can ride her bareback."

Knapp's entire purpose is to help human and horse strengthen their bonds.

"If I can get the human to read the horse better, how many more horses is the human going to affect?" Knapp inquired. "How much more savvy can you pass on?"

"For me, as I progressed with natural horsemanship, I thought I was just buying better horses. They were smarter. But now I don't think that at all; I just have more to offer them."

"It's a better understanding of how to take care of a horse when he's feeling like he doesn't really want to go along with the program. Instead of getting after him, just keep his feet moving a little bit."

Knapp, 58, is continuing to keep *his* feet moving. He's constantly traveling across the United States, giving more than 40 three-day clinics a year.

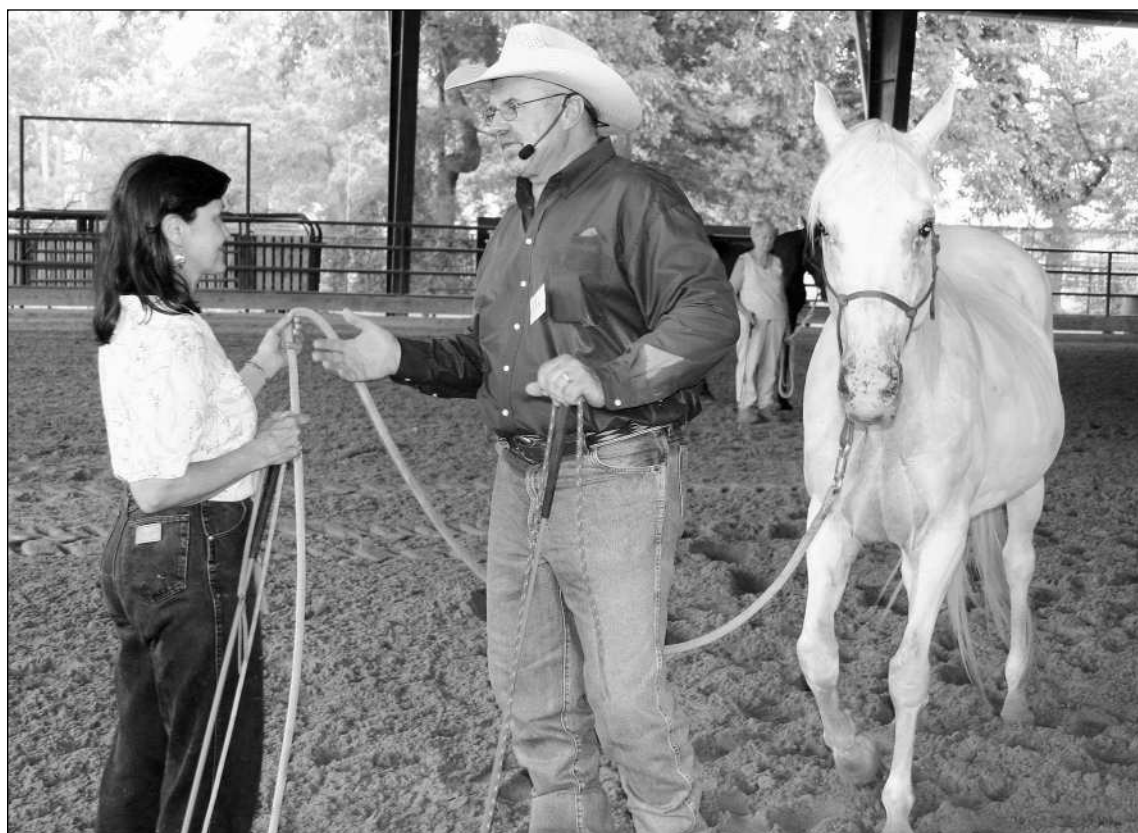
"It's kind of the same lifestyle as rodeo cowboy," Knapp said. "It's just another form of being a gypsy."

But it's a dream-come-true lifestyle for a cowboy, thank you very much.

"I couldn't have ever asked for a better life," the wrangler said. "It's something that I love to do."

For more information, visit [www.donknappsavvy.com](http://www.donknappsavvy.com) or [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com). For a brief explanation of the Seven Games, visit the Web site [www.todayshorse.com/Articles/LanguageofHorses.htm](http://www.todayshorse.com/Articles/LanguageofHorses.htm).

**Check Coming Your Way for future horsemanship classes**



# Coming Your Way

**The Sugasheaux** is a family horse show open to all ages and breeds one weekend a month at the SugArena in New Iberia.

Upcoming dates are: July 20-22, Aug. 3-5 and Sept. 7-9. Thursday is ride night from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Friday is team sorting starting at 7 p.m. The full show begins Saturday at 9 a.m.

Classes are available for everyone, including Western, halter, cowboy and speed events. The events are open to all riders regardless of experience with 50 percent payback in each class.

For more information, contact Stacey Oubre at (337) 365-7539.

**Cocklebur Ranch** in Loranger has several events scheduled for summer.

Week-long horse and ranch camps for beginners will be held in July and August. The rustic camp out with meals costs \$525.

Every Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon, the ranch hosts a horse safety clinic which includes buying, care and ground work tips. The cost is \$25. Barbecue lunch and tours are included.

The working horse and cattle ranch is also open for tours, parties, weddings and other activities.

For more information, contact Dawn Rogers at 985-974-7994.

**The Louisiana Chapter** of the Missouri

Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association will host the 17th Annual Southern Classic Charity Horse Show July 7-8 at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center in West Monroe.

The theme is "Mardi Gras in July - Fox Trotter Style." Admission is free. Proceeds from the show will benefit ARCO.

On Aug. 19, the group will hold its Louisiana Championship Show at the North Louisiana Exhibition Center in Ruston. The show begins at 9 a.m.

For more information, contact Stan Hargett at 318-396-1758 or 318-323-3190.

**Silver Spurs Riders Club** will host an open horse show saddle series at West Calcasieu Arena in Sulphur.

All shows begin at 8 a.m. Dates scheduled include July 9, Aug. 6, Sept. 10, Oct. 8 and Nov. 5.

English, Arabian, halter, color, lunge-line, lead-line, showmanship, Western judged and speed event classes will be available.

Stalls and hook-ups are also available.

For more information, contact Terry at 337-884-8167 or 337-217-3637, or Renee at 337-855-9279.

**Calcasieu Horsman's Club** has open horse shows scheduled for July 8, Aug. 5, Sept. 23, Oct. 14 and Nov. 4 at the Jeff Davis Multi-Purpose Arena in Jennings.

The shows are PAC approved and feature

four age divisions as well as special needs classes.

Classes include English, Western, halter, reining and speed events.

For more information, contact Lou Somers at 337-497-1186 or Angie Leonard at 337-794-0662.

**Louisiana Meat Goat Association** will host their annual Summer Slam Show and general member ship meeting July 1 at the Livestock Barn in DeRidder.

Market classes and breeding classes will include percentage, full-blood, American Purebred, AOB and commercial.

A "dress your goat" contest will be held July 2.

For more information or a show flyer, contact Judy Ansetta at 337-463-6925 or Sandy Odom at 337-238-0224.

**The River Classic Livestock Show**, sponsored by the Ascension Junior Livestock Association, will be held Aug. 12 at Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales.

Classes for beef breeding, market steer, prospect steer and dairy will be available. Ribbons and cash premiums paid to exhibitors; belt buckles awarded to all Grand Champions.

For more information, contact David Templet at 225-644-4322 or Butch Decoteau at 225-673-5853.

**The Wild & Woolly Alpaca Expo** will be held Oct. 21-22 at Fendlason Community Center/Magnolia Park in Folsom.

Events are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

Louisiana alpaca farms will have information available in booths along with a fleece judging contest, photo contest, demonstrations and educational classes.

For more information, visit the Web site [www.wildwoolyalpaca.info](http://www.wildwoolyalpaca.info).

**Woods & Woods Auction Company** in Minden is holding a horse and mule auction the second Saturday of every month.

The tack sale begins at 11 a.m. and the animal sale begins at 1 p.m. A six-month current Coggins is required. RV hookups and a riding arena are available.

General auctions, located at 214 Miller Street, will be held the third Saturday of every month. Farm equipment auctions will be scheduled at a later date.

For more information, contact Larry F. Woods at 318-377-4747 or 318-469-0837.

**High Delta Exotics** is now open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Horse trail rides and tours cost \$15.

For more information and tour times, call 1-888-244-3319 or visit the Web site [www.highdelta.com](http://www.highdelta.com).

## Dales Ponies, *continued from page 12*

back to the mines.

Baudoin said the horse was popular with the British military because of its smallish stature (a Dales is only 14.2 hands) and extraordinary strength, endurance and agility, but this reputation nearly brought about the breed's extinction.

"There are only 1800 worldwide now," Baudoin said. "And about 60 are in the United States."

"After World War II there were only 12 ponies left," Baudoin said. "They were used in the war and a lot of them were killed off. The breeders quit breeding them because they were drafted into military use."

In 1955 the Dales Pony

Improvement Society went to work to reestablish the pony by scouring the English countryside looking for unregistered horses that conformed to breed standards. Their progeny were upgraded accordingly and by 1971, the Society ended program. The breed was taken off the "danger of extinction list" and promoted to a rare breed.

One would think breed advocates would encourage U.S. breeding programs to enlarge the gene pool and build up the numbers, but Baudoin found that not to be the case.

The pony owners of County Durham "are a clannish people,"

Baudoin said.

"These ponies have been a family thing for centuries," Baudoin said. "The breeders would never sell a stallion until about 10 years ago. They'd sell you the garbage and it was really hard to get anything."

Baudoin tried an end-around the Dales Ponies Society of England by arranging a sale of a two mares in France, but it was blocked by the English breeders.

After several trips to Europe and many phone calls she established a relationship with a breeder named Tom Sharp of Shildon, England.

Baudoin said Sharp admitted the English sold all of their "rubbish"

to North America, but gave her the choice of a two-year-old or a yearling stallion. The dealings were all done over the phone and with photographs sent via the Internet.

Sharp tried to put her on the two-year-old.

"I loved the shape of the yearling, but he had a huge head," Baudoin related. "Tom said he liked the two-year-old, but I said I liked the yearling better. He started laughing and said, 'A

person with horse sense. Someone who knows what she's looking at in a horse.'" Sharp said he was planning on keeping the yearling, but

admired Baudoin's accumen and sold her Thornville Dan, the stallion Baudoin plans to establish her breeding program.

The shipping and quarantine process nearly killed Dan, Baudoin said.

Dan was shipped by truck to London, by rail to Dover, by boat to Amsterdam and flown to Miami. The cost of shipping is more expensive than the animal purchase.

"They go through quarantine here in the States," Baudoin said. "If they are under two years old, the quarantine is only three days. For two-year-olds and older, it takes three weeks to clear a mare and stallions, a month to a month and a half."

Shipping a horse overseas is a risky proposition.

"When we picked him up he was skin and bones. We thought we were going to lose him," Baudoin remembered. "We made a big mis-

take and brought him here in the middle of summer. In England, they usually keep a furry coat until July so we had to shave him. I had



to hose him off five or six times a day because of the heat. We decided to bring the next group in the fall when they wouldn't have such a

thick coat."

But Dan survived and the three-year-old is ready to get in the breeding business.

Baudoin said she also is excited about the farm's breeding plans for Dan.

"They have a warhorse type of frame," she said. "I love that type of build on a horse — the high neck set — real short back. They do what we call engaging their hind ends. That makes their front end really light and airy so that the rider doesn't have to be impacted all the time."

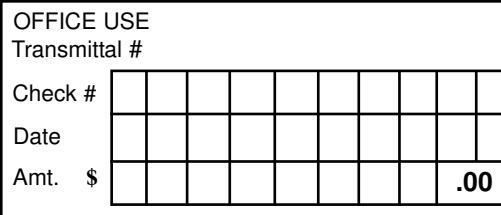
"Horses are the one true love I have. It's not an addiction with me. People get addicted to it, but I really love it. Without horses, I feel lost."

For more information about Baroque Farms Dales Ponies, visit [www.baroquefarm.com](http://www.baroquefarm.com).



June - Aug. 19  
**West Monroe**  
 West Monroe Farmers Market  
 1700 North 7th St.  
 Mon. - Sat. 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 April 1 - Nov. 23  
**ST. CHARLES PARISH**  
**Destrehan**  
 German Coast Farmers Market  
 Parking lot of Ormond Plantation  
 Sat. 8 a.m. - noon, year round  
**ST. LANDRY PARISH**  
**Opelousas**  
 St. Landry Farmers Market  
 952 East Landry St., Hwy. 190  
 Tues., Thurs. & Sat. 7 a.m.-11 a.m.  
 Jan.-Dec.  
**ST. MARTIN PARISH**  
**St. Martinville**  
 St. Martinville Creole Market  
 Evangeline Blvd. & Main St.  
 Sat. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
 May-Dec.  
**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**  
**Covington**  
 Covington Farmers Market  
 City Hall, 609 North Columbia  
 Sat. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Wed. noon-4 p.m.  
 Jan. - Dec.  
**Mandeville**  
 Mandeville Trailhead Community  
 Market  
 675 Lafitte St.  
 Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., year round  
**TERREBONNE PARISH**  
**Houma**  
 Cajun Farmers Market of Houma -  
 Terrebonne  
 Tunnel Blvd. & Naquin St.  
 Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m.-6 p.m., year round  
**WASHINGTON PARISH**  
**Bogalusa**  
 Bogalusa Farmers Market  
 500 Block of Columbia St.  
 Sat., 9 a.m.-noon, Jun. - Aug.  
**WEST FELICIANA PARISH**  
**St. Francisville**  
 St. Francisville Farmers Market  
 agricultural pavilion (4-H Barn)  
 Thurs. 1-5 p.m., May 25-first frost  
**WINN PARISH**  
**Winnfield**  
 Winn Farmers Market  
 301 West Main & St. John St.  
 Tues. & Fri. 7:30 - 11 a.m.  
 April 18-Aug. 11

	This Week	Last Year	Five Years Ago
<b>Slaughter Cows Utility</b>	<b>\$44.42</b>	<b>\$58.10</b>	<b>\$50.85</b>
<b>Feeder Steers 400-500 lbs.</b>	<b>\$118.58</b>	<b>\$131.82</b>	<b>\$102.76</b>
<b>Feeder Heifers 400-500 lbs.</b>	<b>\$114.58</b>	<b>\$119.38</b>	<b>\$95.01</b>



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# Dashing Dan

## A Dales Pony

***Baroque Farms in Watson is betting on young Thornville Dan to sire rare Dales Ponies in Louisiana.***

By Sam Irwin

When it comes to animals, Baroque Farms horse breeder Anna Baudoin likes the real thing.

"My husband, Randy, teases me all the time because when I want an animal it has to come from overseas," Baudoin said. "When I wanted Great Danes, I imported some dogs. I want authentic things."

So when Baudoin discovered the Dales Pony breed she knew a trip to England was forthcoming.

Baudoin is used to a life abroad. She grew up in Saudi Arabia while her father worked for an oil company there. She took English riding lessons and trained her first horse when she was in the fifth grade.

After taking a job with Continental Airlines in Baton Rouge and settling down with husband and children in Watson, Baudoin, 34, started Baroque Farm, specializing in Dales Ponies.

The Baudoins now have two stallions and two mares and recently acquired another stallion and mare on a recent purchasing trip to England. The new additions should reach the farm by early July.

"We're going to breed them and help the conservation effort, Baudoin said. "In England most of the bloodlines have

gotten very close. We've got four now, each representing a different line. We want to cross those up to give more variety to the gene pool."

But acquiring a Dales Pony, considered a rare breed by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, was a difficult feat.

"I had been looking for what I considered the perfect pony and finally came across the stallion we have out there," Baudoin said. "When I had a chance to buy him, he started our whole breeding program."

The stallion, Thornville Dan, is a beauty. "He's very flashy and just eager," Baudoin said.

The Dales Pony is a breed native to the eastern slopes of the Pennine Mountains of England in the upper dales of northern Yorkshire. They have feathered fur covering their hooves.

"These ponies are known for having really good limbs and feet—they have some of the best feet you could ever hope for," Baudoin said. "They never need shoes because of the shape of the foot. They have really big feet so they can spread their weight across the whole foot."

"In the late 1800s the Dales Pony was used to bring lead to the market," Baudoin said. "They could fit down in the pits and haul a heavy load long distances."



**Thornville Dan (top), named for Thornville, the English home where he foaled, works out in Anna Baudoin's exercise yard at Baroque Farms in Watson. A small draught horse, the rare Dales Pony breed was nearly extinct after World War II. Dan's sire and dam are listed on the brass plate on his home stall at Baroque Farm.**



**Feathered fur around hooves (above) and a thick coat protects the Dales Ponies breed in the harsh conditions of the Pennine Mountains in northern England. The Dales Ponies are known for their sturdy feet. Baudoin is currently training Violet (right), an atypical gray Dales Pony, at Baroque Farm.**



The miners used a single pony and rider to quickly guide a team of 20 un-tethered Dales ponies, each carrying 110 pounds of lead ore, over rough terrain traveling distances as great as 250 miles to England's eastern seaports. The ponies also carried equally heavy loads of supplies on the return trip **See Dales Ponies, page 10**